

201-15583



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 30 2004

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Mr. Lester M. Bynum
Manager, Regulatory Affairs
GEO Specialty Chemicals, Inc.
First & Essex Streets
Harrison, New Jersey 07029

Dear Mr. Bynum:

Thank you for your letter dated October 16, 2001 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the EPA's High Production Volume (HPV) Challenge Program. We apologize for the delay in responding.

Your letter inquires as to the status of a November 6, 2000 request from Hercules, Inc. that Dimethyl Benzyl Alcohol (DMBA) (CAS No. 617-94-7) be removed from EPA's HPV Challenge Program Chemical List. According to your letter, the request by Hercules was based on low production volume and the belief that it was the only manufacturer of DMBA.

As you know, EPA posted draft guidance on procedures for removing chemicals that are no longer HPV from the scope of the voluntary HPV Challenge Program on its Chemical Right-to-Know (ChemRTK) website (www.epa.gov/chemrtk) in March 1999. Among the prerequisites to be considered for removing a chemical from the HPV Challenge Program is that the chemical does not meet Inventory Update Rule (IUR) reporting requirements for the two most recent reporting years, in this case 1998 and 2002. Our review of publicly available IUR reporting data indicates that DMBA (CAS No. 617-94-7) was reported on by another company in 1998, and by GEO Specialty Chemicals, Inc. in 2002. Therefore, EPA has determined that this chemical does not meet the no longer HPV criteria.

We will post your letter, accompanied by our reply, on the ChemRTK website as soon as possible. Should you have any questions pertaining to this response, please contact Diane Sheridan at (202) 564-4770. If you have general questions concerning the HPV Challenge Program, please submit them through the ChemRTK website comment button or through the TSCA Assistance Information Service (TSCA Hotline) at (202) 554-1404. The TSCA Hotline can also be reached via e-mail at tsc hotline@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Wardner G. Penberthy
Acting Director
Chemical Control Division

cc: AR201

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